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LETTER
FROM AN
INDEPENDENT ELECTOR
OF
WESTMINSTER
TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
CHARLES JAMES FOX,
IN ANSWER TO HIS
LETTER
TO HIS
CONSTITUENTS.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR JOHN STOCKDALE, PICCADILLY.

1793.

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[Entered at Stationers' Hall.]

A
L E T T E R

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

CHARLES JAMES FOX.

W H E N I heard, Sir, of your intention publicly to address your Constituents on the subject of your late political conduct, and that in order to reconcile their good opinion,

A 2

you

you had condescended to become a *Pamphlet Writer*, I confess, I entertained a pleasing hope that we should all of us see an open, avowed, and manly recantation of those extraordinary principles and equivocal doctrines which you so ardently endeavoured to inculcate in the House of Commons at the beginning of the present sessions ; and, Sir, I am not a little disappointed, as well as mortified, at finding little more in this boasted public vindication of yourself and your opinions, than a mere echo of those speeches which gave so just a subject of complaint, as well to your Constituents as to most of your nearest political friends and connexions.

To endeavour to regain our confidence by a *second* public avowal of sentiments which, when delivered by you in Parliament, justly
excited

excited our indignation and contempt, appears to me a most unusual, and, I must say, *Irish* proceeding, and is no great compliment either to your own judgement or to our understandings.

I shall not, Sir, enter into any discussion with you on the particular subject of your *Letter* ; the arguments you have there detailed, have been so fully and ably answered by the greatest and most respectable abilities in this country ; not by Treasury hirelings or Court followers, but by *your own ci-devant* political friends : that it would be as presumptuous as unnecessary for me to recapitulate what is so generally known and approved of ; especially as I cannot be of opinion that the *irrefragable demonstration* of your *Letter* will have so much effect or success, or make quite so strong an impression on the

minds of your Constituents, as the sound reasoning of Mr. Wyndham, and the brilliant eloquence of Mr. Burke.

You complain, Sir, that your conduct has been misrepresented to us; some circumstances, however, which I shall state in as few words as possible, have struck me, and many others of your Constituents, as neither exaggerated or misrepresented.

The avowed object of the *immaculate and respectable* present French Government has notoriously been to throw England, and particularly this city, into a state of anarchy and confusion; and I can hardly suppose that you, Sir, who take *so much*, and *so extraordinary* pains to acquire foreign intelligence, can have been ignorant that French incendiary Emisseries were swarming in the Capital at

the very time you were making those speeches which have caused so general a discontent ; and, whatever may have been your intentions and motives, you cannot, I think, deny, that your conduct in opposing to the utmost, the executive government in so critical a moment, tended to encourage the seditious, and promote designs which could only have mischief for their object. Now, Sir, your constituents cannot help feeling that their tranquillity, property, and perhaps existence ; that the city of Westminster, in short, which you represent, would have been *first* sacrificed by any seditious explosions ; and that the times were sufficiently dangerous to justify alarm, I think you yourself almost acknowledged in the short speech you made at the Festino Rooms in Hanover Square. At a time, therefore, when no unprejudiced or impartial person could for a

moment suppose that the vigorous measures proposed by Government, had any other object than the preservation of the public tranquillity, we were most of us extremely mortified to find that our nearest and dearest interests were sacrificed by our own Representative to *party principles*, and to what is termed *systematical opposition*, to whatever happens to be proposed by Government. And little, Sir, as you *may be affected by being left in small minorities*, we were by no means pleased that you voted with that minority; and our regret was considerably increased when we afterwards heard, that of the 52 gentlemen who supported your motion, at least thirty of them, and those the most respectable, voted with extreme reluctance, and would not have divided with you a second time on the same subject. Are we therefore, Sir, to suppose your mind so prejudiced, as not to be open

to conviction ? or are we to conclude that you and your fifteen or twenty adherents are abler and wiser than all England put together ? If neither of these circumstances are true, the candid and impartial public will judge *what sort of a motive* must have influenced your conduct. But, Sir, your conduct at the beginning of this session of Parliament, is not the only cause of the complaints of your constituents ; it has but tended to confirm very well founded suspicions of a more ancient date. We have not forgotten the disgraceful transaction of the *Russian Mission*, the notoriety of which was, in our opinion, a strong presumptive proof of its truth ; and we are hurt that a business in which the honour of our Representative was committed, should remain so long enveloped in mystery and *cypher*.

You

You are yet, Sir, to account to us for your conduct at the Whig Club, and to make your Speech at the Meeting in Hanover Square, consistent with those you lately delivered in Parliament. You must let us know the reasons of the long conferences which you almost daily had with M. de Chauvelin, the French Minister, till the moment of his departure, and you must prove to us that his house, where those conferences took place, was not the center of French intrigues, the asylum of the seditious, and the focus of democracy.

Till these things are cleared up to the satisfaction of us all, you can hardly be surprised that every honest Englishman, every independent Elector of Westminster, should think himself justified in being discontented with your conduct, in withdrawing from
you

you his confidence, in repenting his having contributed to make you his Representative, and in determining in future to commit to safer hands the guardianship of his rights, privileges, and interests.

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